

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-42 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 27, 33, and 38-40 have been amended. New claim 42 has been added. Support for the amended and new claims is found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-9, 11-39, and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claims 10 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 38-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 38-40 have been amended to provide a proper antecedent basis for these claims and obviate this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1

The claims are allowable because each and every element is not shown or suggested by the prior art. For example, claim 1 recites, "receiving a request for location information for a first Mobile unit, said request identifying said first mobile unit and further including at least a first specification regarding a quality of said requested location information" and "correlating said first specification with at least one attribute stored in a PDE site database."

As described in the specification, the "present invention generally relates to the use of position determining equipment (PDE) in relation to a mobile communications system (e.g. a wireless network) and, more particularly, to selecting a PDE according to specifications in a location information request for a mobile communications unit." (Specification at page 1, lines 10-14). In some embodiments, the process of correlating the specification with attributes stored in the PDE database provides location information regarding a particular mobile communications unit that is "specifically 'tailored' to a location based application's request." Thus, location information responsive to a particular request is provided while eliminating "unnecessary invocations of PDE sources." (Specification at page 17, lines 5-8).

Embodiments of the present invention, as recited by claim 1, provide location information regarding mobile units by receiving a request for location information including at least a first specification and correlating said first specification with at least one attribute stored in a PDE site database. The PDE site database may contain information regarding the type of technology utilized by a PDE site, the geographical area for which a PDE site is able to provide location information, and the accuracy or uncertainty associated with location information provided by a PDE site. Of course, some or all of this information, as well as additional information, may be found in a particular PDE database. (Specification at page 18, line 16 - page 19, line 9). Benefits of using the PDE database include the ability to eliminate unnecessary invocations of PDE sources while still providing the desired responsive location information. For at least these reasons, claim 1 should be allowable.

Claim 2

Claim 2 recites, "receiving a first indication of the general location of said first mobile unit" and "based on said first specification and said first indication of the general location, selecting at least one location information source in a proximity of said mobile unit capable of providing responsive location information for said first mobile unit."

As recited in claim 2, embodiments of the present invention utilize the general location of the mobile communications unit to further refine the process of obtaining location information for a mobile unit. One benefit provided by the use of this general location information, is the ability to select PDE sources that are capable of providing the desired information. For example, given the general location of the mobile communications unit, a list of PDE sources in a proximity of the mobile unit may be assembled. This list may be used in selecting a PDE source that is capable of providing location information responsive to the first specification received with the location information request. (Specification at page 8, lines 7-24). The method provided by claim 2 eliminates the unnecessary invocation of PDE sources that cannot provide responsive location information and for at least these reasons, claim 2 should be allowable.

Claims 3 and 4

Claims 3 and 4, which depend from claim 2, should be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above for claim 2, and further for the additional limitations they recite.

Claims 5-20

Claims 5-20, which depend from claim 1, should be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above for claim 1, and further for the additional limitations they recite.

Claim 21

Claim 21 recites, "obtaining information regarding a general location of said first mobile communication unit, based on said general location of said first mobile unit, identifying at least first and second sources operable to provide responsive location information regarding said first mobile unit in said general location" and "selecting one of said first and second sources to provide said responsive information."

The embodiment of the present invention provided by claim 21 identifies information sources operable to provide responsive location information and selects one of these sources based on the general location of the mobile unit. As discussed in relation to claim 2, this embodiment provides, for example, benefits including the ability to select information sources operable to provide location information responsive to the desired information request. For at least these reasons, claim 21 should be allowable.

Claims 22-26

Claims 22-26, which depend from claim 21, should be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above for claim 21, and further for the additional limitations they recite.

Claim 27

Claim 27 recites, "receiving a first request for location information at said platform via said interface, wherein said first request includes at least one specification regarding a quality of said requested location information" and "comparing said specification to at least one attribute contained in a PDE database."

As discussed in relation to claim 1, utilizing a PDE database provides benefits including the ability to only invoke PDE sources capable of providing location information responsive to the specification included with the location information request. For at least these reasons, claim 27 should be allowable.

Claims 28-32

Claims 28-32, which depend from claim 27, should be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above for claim 27, and further for the additional limitations they recite.

Claim 33

Claim 33 recites, "selection logic, supported by said processing system, for identifying and selecting at least one of said location information sources operable to provide responsive location information based on a correlation between a PDE database and said one or more specifications."

As discussed in relation to claim 1 and 27, utilizing a PDE database provides benefits including the ability to only invoke PDE sources capable of providing location information responsive to the specification included with the location information request. For at least these reasons, claim 33 should be allowable.

Claims 34-41

Claims 34-41, which depend from claim 33, should be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above for claim 33, and further for the additional limitations they recite.

Claim 42

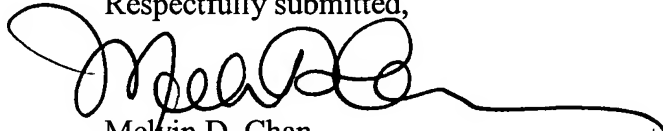
Claim 42, which depends from claim 1, should be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above for claim 1, and further for the additional limitations it recites.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal notice of allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400, extension 5213.

Respectfully submitted,



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